

Introduction to Research Methods Section 81

PSYC 18

Fall 2023 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2023 to 12/06/2023 Modified 08/11/2023

Contact Information

Instructor(s): My Ngoc (Amy) Nguyen

Office Location: DMH 232

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Student Advising Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:00 - 2:30pm via Zoom. Please email me for the Zoom link!

Class Days/Time: Monday and Wednesday, 3:00pm – 4:15pm

Classroom: Zoom (<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/85647385525?pwd=RERORzkvbDJFNElkdXhNOHlkUUVpdz09> Password: 176823)

Course Description and Requisites

Psychological research methods and design (experimental, quasi-experimental [correlational], and descriptive investigations) covering observation, instrumentation, and the collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of research data as illustrated through a review of original research in a variety of the subdisciplines of psychology.

Prerequisite: PSYC 001, and STAT 95.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Course Format

Assignments will be submitted on Canvas so you will need a mobile device. If you need a working laptop, please see the Student Technology Resources section below for more information.

Canvas

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas, see [Canvas Student Resources page](https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/canvas/student-resources/index.php) at <https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/canvas/student-resources/index.php>.

Program Information

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the Psychology BA degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the Psychology BA degree are:

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

2. Research Methods in Psychology. Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.
3. Critical Thinking Skills. Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
4. Applications of Psychology. Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.
Values in Psychology. Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO 1 – Demonstrate knowledge of the research process as it relates to behavioral research.
- CLO 2 – Distinguish between non-experimental, experimental, and quasi-experimental research methods.
- CLO 3 – Assess the threats to validity within a study.
- CLO 4 – Analyze a body of research findings.
- CLO 5 – Construct a research design that effectively tests original hypotheses.
- CLO 6 – Develop a research proposal in APA format
- CLO 7 – Discuss the importance of ethical principles when conducting research with human and animal participants
- CLO 8 – Present on completed research proposal and/or research topic

Course Materials

Textbook

Cozby, P.C., & Bates, S.C. (2018). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (14th ed.). McGraw Hill. ISBN: 1260205584 (Chapters will be provided, no need to purchase).

Suggested reading

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

Library Liaison

Christa Bailey - email: christa.bailey@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

Readings:

Students should read the assigned chapter of the required textbook before the start of class.

Quizzes (CLO1, CLO2):

Students will complete 15 open-book quizzes based on the assigned chapter for that week. Quizzes will be taken every Monday at the beginning of class (unless stated otherwise) and will contain 5 critical thinking questions. Students will be given approximately 10 minutes to complete the quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 10 points.

In-Class Assignments (CLO1, CLO2, CLO3, CLO4):

Each class session will have an in-class assignment due at the end of the day at 11:59pm (unless stated otherwise in the course schedule). In-class assignments will range from participation in group discussions, turning in reflections, or submitting completed word documents onto Canvas. Please note that these assignments cannot be made up or turned in late. Students will have a total of 25 in-class assignments with each assignment being worth 4 points.

Final Paper: Research Proposal (CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7):

To prepare students for conducting future research, students will be required to turn in a research proposal (Due: 12/5/23). A grading rubric for the research proposal can be found on Canvas. The research proposal must be at least 6 1/2 pages and include the following: title page (1 page), abstract (1 page), literature review (2 -4 pages), proposed research (at least half a page), methods section (1-2 pages), and references (1-4 pages). To help you stay on track with turning in your final paper, you will turn in four separate milestone assignments throughout the semester.

Milestone Assignments (CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7)

These assignments will be rough drafts of the different sections in your research proposal. These assignments will be turned in before the research proposal so that you can receive feedback and incorporate the feedback into your final paper. Each milestone assignment will be worth 50 points.

- Literature review (50 points) (Due: 9/28/23)
- Proposed research (50 points) (Due: 11/2/23)
- Methods (50 points) (Due: 12/16/23)
- References (50 points) (Due: 12/30/23)

Formatting Requirements for Milestone Assignments and Research Proposal: All papers must be typed, double-spaced, use 1-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman, and adhere to APA format (7th edition). Please double-check for grammar and spelling errors before turning in your final paper to avoid having points deducted.

Final Presentation (CLO4, CLO5, CLO6, CLO7, CLO8)

In addition to your final paper, you will also present your research proposal to the class. This assignment is worth 250 points and is broken down into 3 parts: Presentation (150 points), slides/file (50 points), and feedback to peers (50 points). There are several submission options that you can choose from for the final presentation. **Regardless of the option you choose, you will need to be present in class for final presentations to answer questions from your classmates.** Your presentation can be any of the following: A) Live presentation, B) Video recording of your presentation, C) Podcast, D) Documentary, E) Poem/Song/Rap, or F) Art Piece

✓ Grading Information

Grading System

Quizzes (150 points)	15%
In-Class Assignments (100 points)	10%
Final Paper (300 points)	30%
Final Presentation (250 points)	25%
Milestone Assignments (200 points)	20%
Total = 1,000 points	100%

Final Letter Grade Scale

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>

<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

- **Extra credit opportunities:** *Extra credit assignments will be made available throughout the semester and will be announced in class (20 points maximum)*
- **Requests for extensions:** As the pandemic continues, you may find yourself facing unanticipated, emergency situations outside of your control that impact your schooling. When these situations arise, please reach out ASAP so that I can work with you to find a successful path forward. **The first step is to request an extension, please fill out this [Google Form](https://forms.gle/cJVRSBFA9Ygb8w7M6): <https://forms.gle/cJVRSBFA9Ygb8w7M6>.** Please submit requests 48 hours before the due date of any milestone assignment or the research proposal. **Extensions are not guaranteed**, but I take all requests seriously and will work with you to find appropriate resources.
- **Late assignments:** **If you did not request or receive an extension**, milestone assignments that are turned in past the due date will receive a 10% penalty from your earned score per late day. In-class assignments and quizzes cannot be made up or submitted late. However, as noted above, there will be multiple extra credit opportunities to earn back any missed points.
- **Grade changes:** Final grades will not be changed unless there was a clerical error.
- **Academic integrity:** Plagiarism, cheating, and any other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The [University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 \[pdf\]](#) requires you to be honest in all your academic coursework. If evidence of academic misconduct is found, you will receive a zero on the assignment(s) in question and I will file a report with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) website for more information.

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Week	Date (M/W)	Topics	In-Class Assignments	Assignments Due (Before Class)	Readings (Read before Monday's class)	Learning Outcomes
1	Mon., Aug. 21	Syllabus Introduction Community Agreements (Extra Credit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #1: About you • Assignment #1 		Chapter 1	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Aug. 23	Lecture 1- How do we study behavior?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #2 			
2	Mon., Aug. 28.	Lecture 2: Important terms/How to get started?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #2: Chapter 2 • Assignment #3 		Chapter 2	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Aug. 30.	Library Presentation - Christa Bailey				
3	Wed., Sep. 6	Lecture 3: Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #3: Chapter 3 • Assignment #4 		Chapter 3	CLO 1, 2, 3
4	Mon., Sep. 11	Lecture 4: Research issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #4: Chapter 4 • Assignment #5 • Assignment #6 		Chapter 4	
	Wed., Sep. 13	Lecture 4 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #7 			
5	Mon., Sep. 18	Lecture 5: Measurement concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #5: Chapter 5 • Assignment #8 		Chapter 5	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Sep. 20.	Lecture 5. Cont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #9 			

6	Mon., Sep. 25	Lecture 6: Observational methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #6: Chapter 6 • Assignment #10 		Chapter 6	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Sep., 27.	Lecture 6 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #11 	Milestone #1: Literature review due		
7	Mon., Oct. 2	Lecture 7: Survey, description, and correlation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #7: Chapter 7 • Assignment #12 		Chapter 7	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Oct. 4	Lecture 7 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #8: Chapter 12 • Assignment #13 		Chapter 12	
8	Mon., Oct. 9	Lecture 8: Experimental design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #9: Chapter 8 • Assignment #14 		Chapter 8	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Oct. 11	Lecture 8 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #15 			
9	Mon., Oct. 16	Lecture 9: Conducting experiments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #10: Chapter 9 • Assignment #16 		Chapter 9	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Oct. 18	Lecture 9 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #17 			
10	Mon., Oct. 23 - Wed., Oct. 25	Check-in: 1-on-1 meetings (5 minutes each)				
11	Mon., Oct. 30	Lecture 10: Complex Designs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #11: Chapter 10 • Assignment #18 		Chapter 10	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Nov. 1	Lecture 10 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #19 	Milestone #2: Proposed research due		
12	Mon., Nov. 6	Lecture 11: Understanding Results and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #12: Chapter 13 • Assignment #20 		Chapter 13	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Nov. 8	Lecture 11 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #21 			
13	Mon., Nov. 13	Lecture 12: Generalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #13: Chapter 14 • Assignment #22 		Chapter 14	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Nov. 15	Lecture 12 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #23 	Milestone #3: Methods due		

14	Mon., Nov. 20 - Wed., Nov. 22	WINTER BREAK - No Class				
15	Mon., Nov. 27	Lecture 13: Experimental designs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #14: Chapter 11 • Assignment #24 		Chapter 11	CLO 1, 2, 3,
	Wed., Nov. 29	Lecture 13 cont.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #25 	Milestone #4: References due		
16	Mon., Dec. 4	Presentation criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #15: Reflection 	Research Proposal due		CLO 1, 2, 3, 7, & 8
Final	Fri., Dec. 8th @ 12:15-2:30pm	Class Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final presentation due • Peer reviews due 	Presentation Slides due		CLO 1, 2, 3, 7, & 8

* The course schedule is subject to change. Any updates will be uploaded to Canvas.